

March 13, 2006

Dear Colleague,

NASA is pleased to call to the attention of members of the U.S. scientific community the release by the European Space Agency (ESA) of the “INTEGRAL Announcement of Opportunity for Observing Proposals” (AO-4), soliciting Guest Observation proposals for ESA’s INTErnational Gamma-Ray Astrophysics Laboratory (INTEGRAL). The Announcement solicits proposals for observations to be performed during the 12 month period from August 16, 2006 to August 16, 2007. Due to the nature of the NASA-ESA bilateral agreement, this solicitation applies only to scientists affiliated with U.S. institutions; others are urged to contact ESA directly. U.S. scientists may propose either as Principal Investigators or as Co-Investigators on foreign P.I. proposals. The AO may be accessed directly from ESA, accessible via the following address:

[http://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/integral/inthp\\_prop\\_tools.html](http://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/integral/inthp_prop_tools.html)

NASA has instituted an INTEGRAL Guest Observer Facility (GOF) at the Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) as a support center for INTEGRAL activities in the U.S. Information of interest to U.S. observers, as well as general project information, can be found at the following address:

<http://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/integral/integralgof.html>

A detailed description of the mission, including instrument capabilities, and additional information pertaining to the proposal preparation and submission procedures, is also available via links to the INTEGRAL home page at that address. (Questions concerning U.S. participation in the INTEGRAL AO-4 program should be addressed to [Chris.R.Shrader@gsfc.nasa.gov](mailto:Chris.R.Shrader@gsfc.nasa.gov).) ESA will be responsible for conducting a peer review of all submitted proposals, including those from U.S. investigators, and determining the associated time allocation. Current plans call for ESA to notify proposers and NASA of the results of the peer review during June, 2006.

NASA intends to make funding available for a Guest Observer (GO) program to support the analysis, interpretation, and publication of data obtained by U.S. proposers who are granted observing time on INTEGRAL through the ESA AO. The level of funding available for any approved program will depend on the total funding available, the size and complexity of the investigation, and on the ultimate number of U.S. investigations approved by ESA. We anticipate that approximately \$1M will be available for support of

US Guest Observers under this AO, however a definitive budget figure is contingent upon the endorsement of continuation of the program by the NASA MO&DA Senior Review and subsequent approval by NASA HQ. Details regarding the timing and mechanism of NASA's solicitation for data analysis funding requests will be announced at a later date; please do not submit a budget with your observing proposal.

For additional technical or programmatic information regarding U.S. participation in the INTEGRAL mission, please contact:

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